

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." VIRG.

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AGRICULTURE.

From the London Farmer's Journal.

HOLKHAM GRAND ANNUAL SHEEP-SHEARING MEETING, &c.

(Continued from page 250.)

SECOND DAY.

"The Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England." (*Great applause.*) In giving this toast, Mr. Coke lamented the absence of the noble duke, which was occasioned by urgent business in town.

"Lord Arundel," with three times three. His Lordship shortly returned thanks, stating that he had one wish to express, which was, the next year to introduce some of his friends, for the advantage they would derive from the agriculture at Holkham.

"The French Consul, and prosperity to the agriculture of France." The gentleman returned thanks in a very polite manner, but we had not the advantage of hearing what he said.

"Count Zamoyiski, son of a great agriculturist in Poland." The young gentleman returned thanks in manner, words, and cadence perfectly English; he said it could not be expected, as a foreigner, that he should make a speech, but begged to return his cordial thanks for the honor done him.

The health of a Prussian gentleman was next drank. Mr. Farran, (as we understood) and prosperity to the agriculture of Prussia.

The Duke of Sussex then rose, amidst great applause. "Gentlemen (said H. R. H.) I feel extremely flattered by the continual testimonies of your esteem and affection: I am sure, by your applause, that you guess the toast I am going to give, and certainly none who live within the reach of Holkham can mistake it for a moment. (*Applause.*) We have all heard the just and universal praises that have been bestowed on his exertions in the cause of agriculture, and we all agree that he richly merits the general thanks and approbation of his country. (*Great Applause.*) His bright example may animate that country in the cause so powerfully alluded to by Lord Nugent, who was ever ready to express the honest feelings of an Englishman, and not only to express, but to act up to them. It is in perfect consonance with those feelings and fully conscious of the character and sentiments of our liberal and kind host, that I now propose as a toast, "Mr. Coke, and prosperity to the house of Holkham."—The applause which followed made the walls of Holkham ring.

Mr. Coke returned thanks, and gave "Sir Henry Fane," with three times three.

Sir H. F. returned thanks, and observed that his habits of life unfitted him for speaking, but he did not the less feel the high honor done him. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Coke then alluded to the long and useful life of Sir John Sinclair, whom he was happy once more to see at Holkham. The Board of Agriculture, he observed, owed much to the merits and exertions of Sir John, and although he (Mr. Coke) did not think highly of the merits of the Board, or the good it had performed, yet he was not the less sensible of the practical knowledge and private worth of Sir John Sinclair. Indeed, such was the esteem in which he held his exertions, and particularly in producing the Code of Agriculture, that he intended the following day to present him with a piece of plate. He complimented Sir John on his conversion to the drilling system: in-

deed he now went so far in its favour, that he had brought a friend there to prove that no rents could be paid without it. He was happy to see so many of Sir John's intelligent countrymen present, and ended with giving, "Sir John Sinclair," with three times three, which was drank with applause.

Sir John, in returning thanks, stated that he did not repent the exertions he had made for the improvement of agriculture; in fact, he considered that as the great basis of the country; no one had ever heard a great nation called a townry, or a manufactory, but emphatically a country. This he was sure of, that the corrupted atmosphere of towns never produced such a race of men as those by whom our fields were cultivated; the increase of such a race he had ever considered as a great national advantage, and their decrease as a great public calamity. Sir John then alluded to the sentiments which were formerly so well received at agricultural meetings, and especially the pleasure of enclosing wastes, [*a Laugh.*] but these were now opposed by the doctrines of political economy, in which we are told that, to lay out capital in cultivating wastes, is to waste our capital. Another successful sentiment in former times was, breeding in all its branches; but the same stores of new-fangled wisdom abrogate the divine command, and instead of increase and multiply, we are taught to decrease, and subtract and divide, to bring our population into heaven knows what compass, for we have more victuals than can be eaten! (*Applause.*) Indeed, it need not be wondered at, if agriculture be oppressed and discouraged, that food should be wanting, or employment of no value; and since these consequences were both probable, and must be destructive, it was an indispensable duty to give protection to agriculture, and to encourage the profitable industry of the cultivators. (*Applause.*) Sir John then said a few words on drilling green crops, and concluded by giving "Success to drilling in all its branches."

Mr. Coke then mentioned his reception at Aberdeen during his tour in Scotland, and said he was very happy to repay the hospitality he received there. On this occasion the Laird of Skene had come 500 miles to see him, for which he returned him many thanks, and begged to give his health with three times three. (*Applause.*)

The Laird of Skene, a venerable man with long white hair, returned thanks at some length, but we could not catch the import of what he said.

"Mr. Maxwell, M. P. for Renfrew," with three times three.

Mr. Maxwell, in returning thanks, stated, in allusion to what had been so well expressed by Lord Nugent, that it would be in vain to hope for any improvement or success in Parliament, unless they were supported by the independent feelings of those who returned the Members; no impulse could be given to that body but from their constituents; therefore, until such feelings are called forth, the country would be little nearer to the end of its sufferings, or the ministry brought to a sense of their duty.

"Sir John Johnson," with three times three.

Sir John returned thanks in a very gentlemanly manner, expressing sentiments highly favourable to agriculture.

"The Independent Yeomanry of the county of Norfolk" [*Applause.*]

Mr. Coke then gave the health of "Mr. Owen, of Lanark," with some encomiums on his philanthropic pursuits.—Mr. Owen said, he felt that there was a duty he owed to himself and the company, he might say to the kingdom and the world at large—to show in what it was he differed in opinion and sentiment respecting the remedy for our national distress, from

those which he heard expressed there and elsewhere. He had been thought to entertain opinions not proper and to look to remedies impracticable; but at least he had been anxiously looking for that which would relieve the country from its evils. He saw there an example worthy to be followed, and a conduct that would serve to explain his views in regard to the national question; 40 years ago that country was a waste and they had heard the owner say that a great breadth of it was let at 3s. an acre, and when the lease was out, it was thought a ruinous bargain to take it at 5s. What Holkham was then, is Great Britain now; at that time Holkham had not one sixth of its present inhabitants, and it received food from the neighbouring districts; that is, it was over-peopled; but it is now six times as populous, and it grows ten times as much corn, nay twenty times as much as its consumption requires: then is it not obvious that we have not only *not* too much population, but that if we had six times as many, with proper management, and adequate skill in the powers of direction and distribution in industry and consumption, that we should be all as much happier than we are, as Holkham is happier than the poorest and most desolate village in England? Mr. Owen here entered into some details and calculations to show that, by no possibility could our taxation be reduced within the limits which appeared to be necessary to the pressure we felt under our reduced means, upon the ignorant scale of the present management of society; he confessed that to diminish burthens must undoubtedly be useful, but other and more important alterations were required in consequence of the application of machinery; we were at present restrained in every way, and cramped in our strength, so that the most industrious and persevering labours could not supply the necessities of life, although we had a power by which we could supply another world with cotton, hose and blankets! Mr. Owen considered that these new and extraordinary powers made it absolutely necessary to re-organize the industrious part of the community, and place them in relation to their wants, and the good of the public and themselves, in a situation altogether different from their present ignorant and destitute condition. Perceiving here some tokens of impatience, Mr. Owen observed, that he was well aware that the subject was too heavy for the occasion; that it would require not one day, but two days, to state it clearly; and therefore, he was induced to run through it in an unconnected manner; but he was sorry to detain the company, and would therefore thank them for their attention, and the honour done him, and drink their healths in return.

"High Sheriff of Notts," Col. Wildman,—who returned thanks.

"Capt. Beauchamp, capt. Manby, and the Wooden Walls of Old England."—Capts. B. and M. severally returned thanks.

Mr. Coke then expressed his happiness at meeting so many distinguished agriculturists from the midland parts of the country, and gave the healths of Mr. Jobson, Mr. Champion, and others, who had done him the honour to attend the meeting. Mr. Jobson returned thanks.

Mr. Coke then apprised the company that they must avail themselves of what little light remained, to see the prize sheep out of the wool, and he would detain them only to give one toast more, which was, "The Illustrious Duke who had honoured Holkham with his presence." [*A burst of applause.*]

The Duke of Sussex rose amidst loud acclamations of applause. His Royal Highness addressed the company to the following effect—"Gentlemen, I have often told you with what pleasure I visit the county of

Norfolk; there is that charm in its hospitality, and that magic in its independence, that all cares are thrown from my heart, and delight and satisfaction overflow. The kind and hospitable reception, equally extended by the owner of this noble mansion to the highest and the lowest, is one of the greatest gratifications I have ever experienced. To see my noble host surrounded as he is by the first nobility in the land, by men of high rank, whose ancestors, as well as themselves, have proved their fidelity to their country, (applause) and by commoners of the first character and talent; and lastly, by yeomanry from all parts of the kingdom,—is so gratifying to my heart, that, as one of the reigning family, though a younger branch of that family, I cannot but reflect on that good-will and good understanding which proceed from esteem and attachment, and produce blessings to every community of men. It appears to me to be duty of a Prince so to govern, and so to be beloved, (applause) that his subjects from the highest to the lowest may cheer him with their praises and bless him with their affections. [Great applause.] So may he lay his head on his pillow, conscious that he has the good will of every individual, which can only be obtained by a steady support of the liberty, prosperity, and happiness of the people." [Shouts of applause.] His Royal Highness concluded by giving "The respectability of the Crown, the durability of the Constitution, and the prosperity of the people." [Long continued and loud plaudits.]

THIRD DAY.

The business of this day commenced with an inspection of the Prize Southdowns at the slaughter-house. Their weights were as follow—

Mr. Blyth's Two-shear.—Carcase 7st.; fat 1st 1lb; pluck 9lb. skin 8lb.

Mr. Paul's Two shear.—Carcase 8st. fat 1st. 3lb. pluck 9lb. skin 9lb.

Mr. Kendall's Two-shear.—Carcase 7st. 11lbs. fat 1st. 3lb. pluck 10lb. skin 8lb.

Mr. Harvey's Two-shear.—Carcase 8st. 6lb. fat 1st. 5lb. pluck 9lb. skin 9lb.

Mr. T. Moore's Three-shear—Carcase 6st. 10lbs fat 12lb. pluck 9lb. skin 7lb.

Mr. Blyth's Three-shear.—Carcase 6st. 13lb. fat 1st. 6lb. pluck 10lb. skin 10lb.

Mr. Oakes' Shearling.—Carcase 9st. fat 1st. 4lb. pluck 9lb. skin 8lb.

Mr. Hill's Shearling.—Carcase 8st. fat 1st. pluck 8lb. skin 7lb.

SLAUGHTERED EXTRA SHEEP.

Mr. Butcher's Two-shear.—Carcase 8st. 8lb. fat 1st. 6lb. pluck 9lb. skin 9lb.

Mr. Shearing's Three-shear half-bred—Carcase 10st. 8lb. fat 1st 4lb. pluck 12lb. skin 10lb.

Mr. Coke's Two shear.—Carcase 8st. 8lb. fat 13lb. pluck 10lb. skin 9lb

There was also a slaughtered Southdown Lamb of Mr. Coke's which weighed 2st. 8lb.

The company then proceeded on their ride over part of the park, and to Wells and Warham; inspecting some admirable crops of wheat, &c. belonging to Mr. Thomas Moore, and Mr. Bloomfield, at each of whose houses the company halted some time. In the yard belonging to the latter, the company were much interested in viewing a fine dairy of Devon cows. It was the intention to have gone to Wighton, but the pressing business of the afternoon occasioned Mr. Coke to hasten their return, in order to gain time by dining somewhat earlier.

THE DINNER.

The company to-day was still more numerous than on the former days, and the anxiety to witness the delivery of the premiums, and hear the speaking, rendered the pressure very great in the statue gallery. After the cloth was drawn, the two first toasts were—"Prosperity to Agriculture." "A fine fleece on a fat carcase."

Mr. Coke then gave the health of Dr. Rigby, Mr. Dalrymple, and others, from Norwich. Dr. Rigby returned thanks, bestowed many encomiums on the

agriculture of Holkham, and stating a variety of particulars connected therewith; particularly the early sown turnips, the general excellence of that crop, and the extended cultivation of mangel wurzell. In regard to his experimental crop of early York cabbares, he begged to observe that they were planted too near: the rows should have been at least three feet apart, to admit the working of the Northumberland plough the whole season of their growth. He then bestowed much praise on the cultivation and manufacture of flax, so admirably conducted under the direction of Miss Coke; and, lastly, entered into the Agricultural question, and the Report of the Committee. On this subject the good Doctor expatiated at some length, and with much point: he complimented Lord Erskine, Mr. Western, Sir Francis Burdett, Mr. Hume, &c. and congratulated the company on the exertion of such talents for the relief of the country. He was convinced, that the only effectual relief would be found in the diminution of public expenditure, and the reduction of taxes; and here he could not but particularly applaud the exertions of Mr. Hume, who had made an important impression on the House, and happily on the measures of Ministers. He had forced them to say *Aye*, and though it was but little *a*, he trusted that a repetition of like instructions would teach them B and C, and so on through the whole alphabet of public abuses. (laughter and applause,) the beneficial effects of which could not fail to be felt throughout the empire. The Doctor concluded by returning thanks to the company for the honour conferred on him.

"Mr. Hughes," a gentleman from Wiltshire: from whom Mr. Coke requested some information respecting the wool trade.

Mr. Hughes expressed himself very grateful for the honour, and ready to give every information in his power. The wool-staplers, he said, were riding about and there was certainly more life in the trade lately. Long wool had been selling at 28s. but was advanced to 30s. a tod; combing wool, he believed, was worth about 40s. We did not here clearly understand what the gentleman expressed.

"Mr. Burroughs, and prosperity to the agriculture of Ireland."

Mr. Burrows returned thanks.

Mr. Coke prefaced the next toast by stating some particulars respecting his early political life. "I was early led (said Mr. Coke) to respect the Americans, and came into Parliament before the commencement of that disastrous and unnatural war which separated the two countries; under a mild and wise government, without doubt, they would have gone hand in hand till now, and have formed a bond of union equal in strength to all the rest of the globe. But evil councils prevailed,—ambitious and tyrannical measures were to be enforced—and the war commenced; I was the only member from this county out of twelve who voted against it; I thank God, I look back with satisfaction to that conduct, and have pursued the same principles ever since. It is not generally known and I have never mentioned it to my friends in this house, that I was the person who moved to put an end to that war; it was carried, I believe, 178 to 177—the majority, however, was but one. Lord North moved that the debate should stand over to the following day; but Mr. Fox gave me a hint, and I moved that an address should be carried up to the throne. Lord North seeing that not a man would stir, at length gave way, (though not till near seven o'clock,) and I carried up the address in leather breeches, boots and spurs, as a county member; I received from his majesty a most gracious answer, and there was an end. But would any man think, or will it be believed, that the traitor General Arnold stood as near to the King when he received the address, as I am to the Duke of Sussex! a most lasting and lamentable proof of that fatal policy of which we have since seen such unhappy effects." Mr. Coke then proceeded to recapitulate the present disastrous condition of the country, stating that the effects of that policy which had never been altered, had brought the kingdom to the very brink of destruction. Those meetings which had always been purely agricultural, had

been slandered as being political, but that did not prevent the attendance of gentlemen of all parties; the meeting continued to increase in number and respectability, and he had now the happiness to see the fullest attendance he had ever witnessed. Mr. Coke then alluded to the Report of the committee in terms similar to those which he had used on Monday, saying that all reserve was now at an end, and that political discussion must now take place to rouse the people to a sense of their situation, and to effect the means of their relief. "For myself (said Mr. Coke,) I should not be worthy of your confidence for a moment if I did not speak my sentiments in a bold and manly manner; I have long been your faithful representative, which I do not desire to continue to be, one day longer than my conduct deserves your approbation; I love the country, and I love liberty, [applause] and am always impatient to get home! In fact, I suffer I know not what, cooped within the pestiferous walls of that house which should be purified with virtue and patriotism; here I breathe a salubrious air, but there I am stifled with corruption. (Laughter and applause.) So glad am I to get home again, and in three days I am as well as ever." Mr. Coke concluded by giving, "Mr. Weeks," a gentleman from America, with three times three, which was drunk with great applause. Mr. Weeks returned thanks in the following words—

"Sir, Nothing can be more acceptable to the feelings of Americans than the friendly expressions of Englishmen. I have often heard much of the hospitality and agriculture of Holkham, and have long had a great desire to be present at one of its annual meetings; in realizing that wish, I must say that my gratification has far exceeded my most sanguine expectations. I regret, gentlemen, that I have not the ability to do justice to the impressions with which I have viewed this scene, nor to reply in an adequate manner to the kind expressions of our worthy host towards my country and countrymen; but I cannot omit to say, that his uniform friendship experienced by us in times past, as well as at present, will ever be held in grateful recollection.—May I avail myself of this opportunity to thank his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex for the flattering manner in which he was pleased to take notice of my country on Monday last.—I thank you gentlemen all, for the honour you have done me in drinking my health. I beg leave to drink yours in return, wishing prosperity to the agriculture of Great Britain."

"Mr. Sabatier," from Nova Scotia.

Mr. Sabatier, in returning thanks said, that the province to which he belonged had been a thriving country, but certainly deficient in agricultural knowledge. He had done himself the honour to come there for the advancement of that important pursuit. He paid some high compliments to the Duke of Kent, and described the many obligations which Canada was under to his wise and beneficent administration of the government. He also spoke very handsomely of Sir Alexander Cochrane, and mentioned the introduction of fine sheep and cattle, and horses, which, however, had been so crossed that the several breeds were considered deteriorated. He concluded by expressing his obligations and thanks to the company.

"The hon. Mr. Harbord, and Admiral Luken." (Great applause.)

Mr. Lukin, a very young gentleman, returned thanks in a most easy and eloquent manner, with good emphasis and good discretion, which drew forth the lively plaudits of the company.

"Symmetry well covered."

"Mr. McKenzie, and prosperity to the Agriculture of Scotland."

Mr. McKenzie returned thanks.

"Mr. Bloom and prosperity to the town of Wells."

Mr. Bloom returned thanks.

Mr. Coke then prefaced the health of Sir Francis Burdett by observing, that he was almost one of his earliest friends, and no one he esteemed more as a patriot or as a man. He (Sir Francis) had indeed been assailed by all manner of calumny, and called a Jacobin, and what not; but he could safely affirm that the country had not a better friend, nor the King a

more loyal subject. He concluded by giving "Sir Francis Burdett," with three times three, which was drunk with loud and long continued cheers.

Sir Francis rose to return thanks; but we can give only a sketch of what he said. The correctness, ease, and eloquence of his address, made a striking and lasting impression on the company. His exordium was general and complimentary; and after sketching the good effects of Mr. Coke's conduct and example at Holkham, he drew a picture of a kingdom's welfare, and shewed how the same virtue, mildness, and moderation, would happily govern mankind. If a parish was but a large family, so a kingdom was but an aggregate of parishes; and the same principles, if honestly applied; the same laws if faithfully administered; the same conduct, if virtuously followed, would equally promote the prosperity of all. He made here a most elegant and appropriate allusion to the presence of the Royal Duke, who he (Sir Francis) was sure could see nothing more congenial to his feelings than the effects of such conduct as he had described, and the blessings it was calculated to diffuse. His Royal Highness could not fail to observe in such a scene, how grateful were the unbought affections of men, and how little a king of England needed for his defence, more than the love of a grateful and happy people. Sir Francis then alluded to his health being proposed a second time, which he could only impute to the wish Mr. Coke had to introduce him to the knowledge of the Freeholders of Norfolk. He took notice of the slanders alluded to by Mr. Coke, and defended his character from their venom with much force. He disclaimed the imputation of Jacobin principles. No man he said, could be more anxious than himself, that the King of England should be the greatest and most beloved King in the world; his political faith was that of the constitution of England; the original and true constitution of our forefathers, without any new gloss, or modern corruption. He next alluded to what he had suffered, for his indiscretion, perhaps, but certainly for the sincerity of his attachment to civil liberty, and the honest expression of his feelings when he saw it assailed and outraged in the manner it had been. He was happy to say that he had many friends who did not think him deserving those marks of disgrace with which it had been thought fit to stigmatize his conduct; among the rest, the Royal Duke then present did not think the walls of a prison, in such a case, a mark of public infamy [*loud cheers*], nor disdain to visit an unjustly suffering subject. He professed not to understand much of agriculture and general cultivation; but there was one plant, indigenous to this soil, which he delighted to cherish, and without which all other cultivation was barren—he meant the plant of liberty, which was at once the spring and solace of toil, and gave to fleeting life its lustre and perfume. (*Great applause.*) He had observed that there was in agriculture an implement called a *tormentor*, the use of which he believed was to eradicate weeds from the soil; this implement he imagined had been very much used about Holkham, as he saw no weeds remaining, from which he concluded that all the farmers of Norfolk had become *radicals*.—(*Laughter.*) Now, to carry on the metaphor, he conceived that an honest House of Commons would be a political *tormentor*, which would root out the noxious weeds of corruption and invigorate the growth of public prosperity. It was a principle of the British constitution, that the persons who pay the taxes should appoint those who impose the taxes; the departure from this principle was the sole cause of our preseat calamities, and no cure could be found for them but in our return to it. This was evident from facts, because the ministry had done nothing, and would do nothing for the public relief, but referred that to the operation of time, which time could only make worse. The hon. Baronet next adverted to the principles upon which he opposed the American war, stating how much he rejoiced in the success of those principles in a country which must be considered the asylum of civil liberty. For our part, we had been in the progressive violation of those principles ever since, and the practical effects

were now too apparent; but, unhappily, they were visited upon the heads of the innocent instead of the guilty. Sir Francis proceeded at considerable length to illustrate his argument by instances quoted from history, shewing the destructive consequences of profusion and extravagance, and the contrary good effects of equity and economy; and concluded by repeating his thanks to the company; and adding, that such was his satisfaction and delight at what he saw at Holkham, that he hoped to be present at its future meetings as long as he lived. The speech was received throughout with great applause, and extraordinary marks of attention and respect.

Mr. Coke then rose, and proposed the healths of the clergymen who had done him the honor to attend that meeting, and took that opportunity to vindicate himself from the calumnies that had been circulated against him, as an enemy to the established church, and particularly to the tithe system. This latter was undoubtedly added to rouse the clergy in general to resentment, and might perhaps be the more easily believed on account of his known attachment to agricultural improvement. This was a subject he did not wish to enter into at length on that occasion; he wished the church and its ministers to have their due, and was no otherwise an enemy to tithes, but as he could wish that the maintenance of the established church was put on a better footing.

"Mr. Archdeacon Bathurst, and the clergymen present."

The Archdeacon in returning thanks, took a pretty general and extensive view of the tithe system with reference to the present distresses of agriculture, and considered that rents and tithes ought to be generally and fairly reduced according to the value of produce. He alluded to the consequences of the expenditure of the late war falling exclusively upon the industrious classes; on the contrary, those who reaped the benefit should pay for it; that is to say, men of large property, and especially monied men. The taxes on the poor should be reduced; for neither in reduced rents and tithes together, could the farmers find sufficient relief while the taxes on necessities remained so oppressive.

Mr. Glover returned thanks in a few words complimentary to Mr. Coke, and favourable to the character and views of Mr. Owen.

(To be continued.)

ADDRESS

TO THE FARMERS OF PENDLETON DISTRICT, S. Carolina.—September 8, 1819.

The committee appointed by the Farmers' Society at the August meeting, beg leave to report the following address, to the inhabitants of this District, as a preface to the queries, proposed to be published; and they recommend that the Committee on Publications be directed to cause the Address and Queries to be inserted in the Pendleton Messenger.

To the Farmers of Pendleton District—

The Pendleton Farmers' Society has been organized since the year 1815; and perhaps they have been remiss, in not stating, publicly, before this time, the objects of their institution, and the means by which they hope for success.

The great object of this society is the agricultural improvement of the district, by directing the attention of their brother farmers to the various branches of rural economy, and by the introduction of the most modern and approved system of husbandry; and surely it is obvious to all, that such improvement is necessary to our welfare and prosperity. We are the largest, and it is believed, the most populous district in the state; but our importance is reduced by a

want of information on many essential points, and particularly on agricultural subjects. Our fellow citizens elsewhere, are making rapid advances in the arts which improve and adorn society; the spirit of internal improvement is awake and active; science flourishes, and all classes of our countrymen are vying with each other in efforts to raise our national character, both at home and abroad. And shall we be backward on such an occasion? Shall we be the only idlers in a contest for the prosperity of our country? Shall we be the drones to devour the labours and the talents of industry and skill? We trust you have too much virtue, too much zeal, and too much patriotism to suffer such an imputation to be cast upon you.

Although our lot has been cast in a remote corner of the state, among rugged mountains, with a vast proportion of our soil unfit for cultivation, and what is worse, without a convenient conveyance to market, yet we have here many advantages and blessings to be thankful for. Our district is among the most healthy in the union—our land is cheap; and a sufficiency of it of tolerable quality, is within the reach of every intelligent and industrious farmer. If we make less money, we have less need of it here than elsewhere—a little judgment and a little industry will procure from our fields and our flocks all the requisites for human comfort. Foreign luxuries ought to be abandoned. There is hardly an article among them which had not better be relinquished. Let us all unite with zeal and activity to increase the solid comforts of home.

To promote these praise-worthy objects, to increase the real comfort and happiness of every farmer in the district, and to make him more respectable and independent, the Farmers' Society was instituted. The legislature of the state, perceiving the happy consequences likely to result from their exertions, granted them an act of incorporation in the year 1817. They have since acquired a little property, and as it may with truth be said their object is to be useful, will not their brother farmers in the district unite with them in promoting such an object? The effect of combination is great; a few individuals, however zealous, can do nothing; but a society composed of members from all parts of the district, can, and will be useful in the highest degree. Much good has already been effected, many instances of which are on the records of the society. The annual contribution of each member is a mere trifle, but the aggregate of contributions would enable the society to extend their means of information and usefulness. Practical books, good ploughs, harrows, and other implements of husbandry, and good seeds of various kinds, would be purchased. Larger premiums could be given; and it is hoped that the day is not distant, when annual fairs shall be established at our anniversary, to which all the farmers of the district may resort, for the sale or

* Many good substitutes for Coffee may be found. Rye well cleaned, washed, and dried in the sun, then parched and ground, makes a beverage hardly to be distinguished from coffee, and more wholesome. Carrots cut in very small squares, dried hard in the sun, and then parched and ground, is another good and wholesome substitute.

purchase of fine animals, fine samples of grain or the products of the loom, the workshop, the dairy or the orchard.

The views and objects of the society having been thus fairly and candidly stated, the farmers of the district are invited to become members. There is hardly a man who cannot give information on some point, and if we all contribute what we know, we shall obtain a mass of information which must be useful. It is not essential that those living at a distance should attend every meeting, though as punctual an attendance as circumstances will permit is much to be desired. The society already consists of eighty members, and new members are admitted at every meeting.

As it may be inconvenient for some farmers to become members of the society, who are yet desirous of assisting it in so good a cause, by all the means in their power, they are respectfully requested to communicate any information they possess, addressed to Joseph V. Shanklin, Esq. our corresponding secretary. The society know that practical farmers are not literary men; the style or manner of communication is perfectly immaterial; and the society, as a body of plain farmers themselves, want plain facts, in plain language. They therefore hope that practical farmers will write to them, and lest any one may suppose the information he has to give may not be on a subject of sufficient consequence, they have directed a list of questions on the most important subjects to be added to this address. This mode, it is hoped, will encourage farmers to write, as they have nothing to do but to answer a plain question; and the example once set will be followed by others.

QUERIES.

Manures.—Have you made any experiments with manures? Of what nature were they? Have you ever used fresh stable manure? What is the difference, in point of strength, between it and rotted dung? In what quantity, to what soils, in what manner, at what time, and to what crops have you applied it? To what crops with the greatest success? Have you ever made a compost heap, viz. a heap consisting of dung, earth and vegetable matter, such as weeds? In what proportion did you use each of these materials? What is the best method of making and collecting the greatest quantity of manure on a farm? Have you ever hauled any creek mud, or other stuff from ponds or branches, on your fields, or to your manure heap; and with what benefit? What is the nature of the soil to which you applied this manure? Have you ever used ashes as a manure? Were they leached or unleached? What is the difference in value between these as manures? To what soils were they used, and with what effect? Do you not think unleached ashes more beneficial when mixed in the compost heap? Have you ever applied lime to your land? Do you know any thing of marl in your neighbourhood? It is a whitish, clayed earth, and will effervesce when vinegar is poured on it.

Soils.—Of what nature is the soil upon which your experiments have been made? Is it sandy or clayey or loamy? What particular grains or grasses have you found best adapted to particular soils? Is there any substance in your

soil unfriendly to any particular vegetable or plant, and how have you or can you correct it?

Tillage.—How deep ought lands to be ploughed? Should the black mould or top earth only be turned up, or ought the yellow or red earth underneath to be turned up also? In what proportions ought they to be mixed? What is your method of destroying weeds and grass in your fields? Do you fallow your land? Do you perform this operation in winter and summer? Are your fallows naked, or otherwise? Do you lay your fields in ridges or lands? How wide are the latter? What is the best method of preparing land for the reception of seed, particularly for wheat? When do you haul your manure on the land? Do you spread or drill it?

Stock.—Are not oxen more profitable than horses? What is the difference of keep and work between a pair of horses and a yoke of oxen? Do you use mules? Are they better than horses? In what respects? Have you ever used large wooden hames for horses? Do you prefer them to collars? Do oxen draw best with the collar or the yoke? Did you ever yoke them by the horns? Was the yoke placed in the front or back of the horns? How can you improve the breed of sheep, as respects the quantity and quality of wool and mutton? How, and upon what, do you maintain your ewes and lambs, in the winter and spring? Is it profitable to shear lambs the first year? Do you shear your sheep once or twice a year? What are their disorders, and what remedy have you for them? What is the best method of rearing calves? What is the best method of fattening cattle? How best kept for the pail? What is the best method of making cheese and butter? Do you know the disorder in cattle called milk sick? Do you know any cure for it? What occasions the hollow horn? How is it most easily and effectually cured? How do you raise hogs? What breeds are the best? Which is the cheapest and the best mode of preparing them for the knife?

Grain.—Which is the most productive species of wheat; the red, white, yellow bearded, or naked? Is winter better than summer wheat? In what proportion? What are the causes of smut, blast and mildew? How are these prevented or remedied? What is the best method of preserving wheat between harvest and threshing time? And between threshing time and grinding? Is rye a profitable crop with you? How do you cultivate oats? Are they worth cultivating? What species have you found most productive? Do your soil and climate suit barley? What is the greatest quantity of this grain, that you know of having been made to an acre? How do you cultivate Indian corn? In what manner is the ground best prepared for it? How should it be manured and tended? In what manner and to what extent can beans and peas be cultivated? What is the best time for cutting up the vines? How best cured? What is the greatest weight of peas and cured pea-vines that you have obtained from an acre?

Grasses.—What grasses make the best pasture? What the best hay? What facts have you relative to the culture and value of lucern,

St. Foin, timothy, and clover, feather-grass or white top, and orchard grass? Cannot some of our native grasses be greatly improved by culture? What sort of pasture agrees best with sheep, neat cattle, horses and swine? What particular directions can you give on the subject of grazing? Are you acquainted with the narrow-leaf plantain? Do you esteem it as a pasture grass?

Fruit Trees.—What kind of apples afford the best cider? What is the best method of grafting, inoculating, and planting of orchards? In what manner do you cultivate peach, plum, nectarine, apricot, quince, and cherry trees? Will nectarine trees, not grafted, ripen their fruit? May not the fig be successfully introduced into the district?

Vermin.—How do you destroy moles? Will the palma christi drive them away? How are grubs in your corn and flax destroyed? Which is the best method of getting rid of the bugs that destroy your melon, cucumber, and pumpkin vines? How do you destroy the canker worms and caterpillars that infest orchards? How overcome the lice and flies which so greatly injure cabbages and turnips?

Bees.—Have you any improvement in the management of bees?



BRIGHTON CATTLE SHOW—1821.

Proceedings of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society at the late Brighton Cattle Show.

Continued from page 251.

FOURTH REPORT.

The Committee on Domestic Manufactures award as follows:

To William Sheppard, of Watertown, for the best specimen of Broadcloth, the first premium	\$30
To the Wolcott Woollen Manufacturing Co., for Broad cloth, the 2d premium,	20
To Stephen Buttrick, of Frammingham, for Woollen Cloth of Household manufacture, the 1st premium,	12
To Jonas Pollard, of Boston, for ditto, 2d premium	8
To the Wolcott Woollen Man. Co. for Casimeres, the 1st premium,	15
To Edward Howard, of Dudley, for ditto, the 2d premium.	10
To the Wolcott Woollen Man. Company, for Satinets, the 1st premium,	10
To Isaac Curtis, Jr. & Co. of Stockbridge, for do. the 2d premium,	6
To Nathan Barret, of Concord, for the best specimen of Carpeting, the 1st premium,	10
To Bilsay Delano, of Braintree, for the 2d best, the 2d premium	7
To the same for linen Diaper, the 1st premium,	10
To Joseph Richardson, of Hingham, for do. the 2d premium	5
To Thomas Hart, of Dorchester, for Cotton Shirts, the 1st premium,	20
To Wm. Phillips & Co. of Dedham, for Worsted Hose, the 1st premium,	5

To Lemuel Healey, of Dudley, for sewing Silk, the 1st premium, 5
To Caroline Bronsdon, of Milton, for do. the 2d premium, 3

A piece of Stair Carpeting, manufactured by Miss Anna Edes, of Charlestown, was of sufficiently good quality to be entitled to a premium, and would have obtained one had there been the number of yards required by the Trustees.

A premium was withheld for the same cause from Mrs. Oliver Fiske, of Worcester, who presented a piece of Flannel.—In point of fineness, softness and strength, it was thought entitled to favorable notice. The committee exceedingly regretted in another case, that of Mr. James Howarth, of Andover, that they were precluded by the unseasonable entry of his Flannels, from giving them the advantage of a premium. The specimen was thought very good, and perhaps there is no article of domestic manufacture more deserving of liberal encouragement.

The Satinets of Daniel Ellis & Son, of Walpole; the Shirts of the Thread Manufacturing Company, of Seconk; and the Gauzes of Archibald Kennedy, of Seconk, although they were entered too late for examination by the committee, were inspected by the great number of persons who visited the hall on the second day of the exhibition, and whatever be the merit of these fabrics, they have obtained their fair reputation with the public, which will in a measure allay the disappointment of the manufacturers, who lost their opportunity of obtaining premiums.

The Trustees have offered the following gratuities:

To Elisha Hammond, of Brookfield, for a specimen of Rose Blankets, better than any exhibited at Brighton in former years, 5
To Julia A. Drury, of Marblehead, for a Hearth Rug, quite equal in quality to the best imported, 5
To Mary F. Baldwin, of Chelmsford, for a Hearth Rug, of prime quality, and Lace Veil, 5
To Abigail Little, of New-Braintree, for a Hearth Rug, 3
To Elizabeth Denny, of Worcester, for do. 3
To Rebecca Warren, of Chelmsford, for do. 3
To Mrs. Lewis, of Dorchester, for a Silk Sash, 2
To Priscilla W. Drew, of Plymouth, for a Linen Lace Cap, 2
To Betsy Merrill, of Salisbury, for Linen Thread of a very fine quality, 5
To Elizabeth O. Spear, of Dorchester, for a Cotton Counterpane, 5
To Hannah Hoar, of Lincoln, for do. 4
To Phebe Whittemore, of South Boston, for do. 3
To Mary Brown, of Hingham, for an imitation Leghorn Bonnet, 5
To Lydia and Hannah Marshall for do. 5

(These specimens were, in neither case fine; but every example of this manufacture is deserving of reward, because it is of recent origin here. The material is a native grass; the fabric is more durable than that of straw, and may be

expected soon to rival the best specimens of a very expensive imported article.)

To Ebenezer Blake, of Wrentham, for Straw Bonnets, (of a finer quality than any exhibited at either of the former shows, 5

To Benjamin Wheeler & Co. of Frammingham, for specimens of Straw Bonnets, very beautiful, 4

To Ann Dalrymple, for a fine Straw Bonnet, 3

To Mr. Cephas Leach, of Easton, for Straw Bonnets, 3

(Mr. Leach would have received a larger gratuity had his specimens been presented on the day appointed for the examinations.)

To Misses Sarah Polly and Elizabeth Lewis, for a variety of Fancy articles manufactured from the Down of the Turkey—to each, 5

To Miss Odiorne, of Boston, for a Gown made from Cotton and the ravellings of an old silk gown, 4

(This article, together with several specimens of Thread, made by two females whose names do not appear, from shreds of silks and gauze taken from the sweepings of a milliner's shop, may be classed among the savings of a minute economy not to be mentioned but with respect. Examples of this sort serve to suggest new resources to the necessitous, and add to the stock of useful employments for female children in humble life.)

To Jane Swan, of Metheun, for fine Linen Thread, 5

To Hannah Sparhawk, for Worsted Hose, 2

To Mrs. Hawks, of Lancaster, for do. 2

To Mary Ann H. and Margaret P. K. Rider, for needle work, each, 2

To Mr. John Johnson, of Marblehead, for a Caplin Sein and a Herring Net, manufactured from Cotton, 10

(This is a new article; the public is indebted, as far as the committee could learn, to Mr. Johnson, for introducing the use of Cotton for this purpose. The fishermen of Marblehead, it is said, prefer Mr. Johnson's nets to those made from Hemp; whether of foreign or domestic manufacture.)

The Water-proof Hats, of a superfine quality, exhibited by the Watertown Hat Manufacturing Company, appear to unite the qualities of great firmness and lightness. They were finished in the best style, and judging from these specimens, their manufacture has attained to great perfection.

A gratuity of twenty dollars was tendered to this Company at the last annual exhibition. A similar mark of approbation is certainly as well merited, to say the least, the present year.

The Trustees have sanctioned a gratuity of ten dollars to Col Johnson Mason, of Medfield, for a specimen of Duck made with a machine, the invention of Dr. Jesse Fox, of Sangus, and which has received some improvements by Mr. Mason. The sum given to Mr. Mason bears no proportion to a just estimate of the importance of the manufacture, or the merit of the specimen. The thread is very even and no defect could be detected in the fabric, although critically examined by several navigators. It

was thought by these gentlemen to bear a comparison with the best quality of duck of foreign manufacture.

The Broadcloths exhibited the present year were not of the class of extra fine. They were the best of that description of cloths which can be afforded in our market cheaper than the imported. The cloths of domestic manufacture worth from \$2.50 to \$6 the yard, have taken the place of the imported cloths of the same kind, and have put a stop, almost wholly to the importation; which has been progressively diminished for some years. Those of the committee more particularly conversant with the subject, and whose experience may justify an expression of an opinion, entertain no doubt that the manufacture of middling and fine cloth may be considered not less firmly established among us than that of cottons, and that under equal advantages of capital and good management, it will not be less profitable. It is creditable to our Woollen Manufacturers, that the finishing is now in no degree inferior to that of the English. The fixing of the blue dye, one of the greatest difficulties in the art, is now well understood. The blue is made as permanent as any other colour. There is the same variety in the shades as in the English cloths, and there is no want of brilliancy.

The progress of household manufactures in all their endless variety, is less apparent than that of the fabrics made by incorporated companies, because the former are carried on in retirement—are brought into the market in small parcels, without pretension. Their origin is unknown to the public, and they are often admired and purchased (particularly fancy articles) as the products of the ingenuity and taste of foreign countries. So far as respects articles of the first necessity, the domestic manufacture is growing so rapidly as, every year, to diminish the importation of many kinds, and to stop altogether the importation of a few.—Excessive bounties from government for the purpose of encouraging domestic manufactures must, it is obvious have a contrary tendency—since by increasing the profits of a business already lucrative, which would be the effect of this policy, too much capital would be diverted into every successful branch of manufacture, thus artificially raised into public notice, and ruin would be brought upon those very establishments, which are now enjoying an amount of profits, certainly well earned, but sufficiently ample for the desires of reasonable men, and certainly so for the public.

RICHARD SULLIVAN.
ABBOTT LAWRENCE.
JOHN LEMIST.

Brighton, Oct. 11th, 1821.

FIFTH REPORT.

The Committee upon the Ploughing Match, consisting of E. Hersey Derby, Chairman, Isaac Davenport, Silas Gates, and Paul Upton, Esq's. ask leave to

REPORT:

That a piece of green sward land was divided into lots of a quarter of an acre each, that there were several competitors, viz:—Silas Dudley, one pair of cattle, himself both plough-

man and driver—time employed, 43 minutes. Lewis Lilly, one pair of cattle, himself ploughman and driver—53½ minutes. Joseph Curtis two pair of cattle, with Nelson Marvel ploughman, and ——— Moulton driver—55 minutes. Samuel Ward, one pair of cattle, Clark Jenny ploughman, and Elias Sawyer driver—57 minutes. Aaron D. Williams, two pair of cattle, David Morrison ploughman, and Abijah Seaver driver—64 minutes. Jonas L. Sibley, 1 pair of cattle, Samuel Sibley ploughman, and Jerrey L. Batchellor driver—44½ minutes. And Darius Putnam, one pair of cattle, himself ploughman and driver—39 minutes. Places being assigned by lot. That the work in general was very excellent, and that they have found great difficulty in awarding the premiums. They consider the ploughing of Messrs. Curtis and Williams as rather the best; but being bound by their rules and regulations to consider not only the excellence of the work, but the economy of labor as well as the time employed, and considering that both Messrs. Curtis and Williams, each had two yoke of oxen and a driver, and that Mr. Dudley had only one yoke of oxen and no driver; and also considering the excellence of his cattle, and his peculiar skill of managing them, together with the goodness of his labor, they have been induced to award

To Mr. Silas Dudley, of Sutton, as owner of the plough, the first premium, \$20—as ploughman, \$10—as driver, \$5.

To Mr. Curtis, of Roxbury, as owner of the plough, the second premium, \$12—to Nelson Marvel, as ploughman, \$5—to ——— Moulton, as driver, \$3.

To Mr. Aaron D. Williams, as owner of the plough, the third premium, \$8—to David Morrison, as ploughman, \$4—to Abijah Seaver, as driver, \$2.

They had great pleasure in observing that all the teams were very fine, and under excellent management.

E. HERSEY DERBY, *Chairman.*

Brighton, Oct. 11, 1821.

SIXTH REPORT.

The Committee on Working Oxen, consisting of Messrs. John Welles, Samuel G. Derby, and Elijah Perry,

REPORT:

That they have been much gratified to find that the encouragement given by the Society has had so beneficial an effect.

The Show of Working Cattle this year was certainly superior to any that have preceded it. Eleven yoke of Working Cattle were entered to contest for the premiums, and, if the advantages of competition and excitement needed illustration, it would receive additional force from this part of the exhibition.

The cattle were in general well made and well matched, of great power and docility, and their training superior to what has been before presented to the view of the Society. Still in backing, which is a most useful and necessary power in the ox-team, there is more attention needed in our farmers. Several owners of oxen went from the exhibition satisfied that their cattle were not so well trained in this particular as to deserve the premium. It is a source

of much gratification to the Committee that they can feel so strong an assurance, from the appearance of the young stock, exhibited this year, that the zeal and enterprise of our countrymen is likely, for succeeding years, to present a breed of cattle more deserving of encouragement and more promotive of the best interests of the country.

After an impartial examination of the working oxen, and such test of their power and training as could be had, the Committee awarded as follows:

To Darius Putnam, of Sutton, 1st premium.

*To Silas Dudley, of Sutton, 2d do

To David Smith, Jr. of Waltham, the 3d premium.

To John Atkins, of Natick, half the 4th do.

To Jonas L. Sibley, of Sutton, the other half 4th do

To Jonathan Davis, of Oxford, the 5th do

The fourth premium was divided from the general circumstances of equality in the minds of the Committee. The 5th premium was richly merited by Mr. Davis, for his Steers only three years old, which discovered no want of power in the usual movements of a load and wagon weighing nearly fifty hundred.

The Committee on "Working Oxen" have a full conviction of the motives which govern the Trustees of the Agricultural Society, in the premiums which are offered for the several grades of Working Oxen.

The utility of the Ox-team, its adaptation to the nature and condition of our soil, and its cheapness of support, said to be less than half that of a Horse team, would induce a belief that it must be in use in New England altogether. There are however other and very important considerations. A judicious farmer may make his team every year of increased value by their growth and training; and in case of most of the accidents that can befall them, the carcass is of nearly full value. It is not so with the horse team. And when it is considered that, from the use and multiplication of this animal, one of the greatest staple articles of our country is enlarged, the motive becomes imperative, and the influence of the Society involves that of the State.

It may be said that these facts are known to our intelligent farmers; but it is a source of regret that a great increase of horses in double teams, has taken place, which must lessen the means of support to our increasing population and thus become a public evil.

But your Committee consider that the principal, if not the only objection to the Ox-team, its want of speed, may be mostly corrected in the training, and they are happy to see in the cattle exhibited this year much to encourage the expectation. The motives for the use of ox power are so persuasive and well founded, embracing so deeply both individual and public in-

* The second premium which was awarded to Silas Dudley, and would under other circumstances have been well deserved, could not consistently with the rules of the Society be paid, as the same cattle had received a premium of the Society at an exhibition in a preceding year. This fact was unknown at the time. This regulation is important in the view of the Trustees in producing a more extensive and beneficial competition. It has been provided for in their advertisement of premiums, and as they thought was fully understood by the public.

terests, that your Committee cannot but trust they will find a due estimation and support in the discernment, vigilance and patriotism of the farmers of New-England.

Per order of the Committee,

JOHN WELLS. *Chairman.*

REMARKS ON FENCES,

BY W. NOLAND.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

ALDIE, October 25th, 1821.

Dear Sir—The 20th number (volume 3d) of the American Farmer, contains some excellent remarks on the subject of Fences, in a letter from Mr. James Worth, to the Secretary of the Agricultural Society of Buck's County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Worth recommends the post and rail fence to the farmers, as the cheapest kind of enclosure; and contends that it is superior to all others. The post and rail fence, made of proper materials, is known to be an excellent and lasting enclosure. When I speak of proper materials, I mean cedar or locust posts, with chesnut or black walnut rails. Such no doubt, are the materials with which post and rail fences are made in Mr. Worth's neighbourhood. In our County (Loudon) we have no cedar, very little locust or black walnut and not much chesnut, so that the post and rail fences of our county are made of materials that do not last more than ten or twelve years. It not unfrequently happens, that this kind of fence with us, is made of green materials, with a part of the rails so small or crooked as to admit hogs. This in a country, where hogs are permitted to go at large, you may readily suppose, is the cause of no little vexation, and often leads to serious misunderstandings between neighbours. I have noticed Mr. Worth's letter with the view of calling your attention to three kinds of enclosures, which I shall endeavour to shew, are cheaper and more permanent, than the post and rail fence made of the best materials.

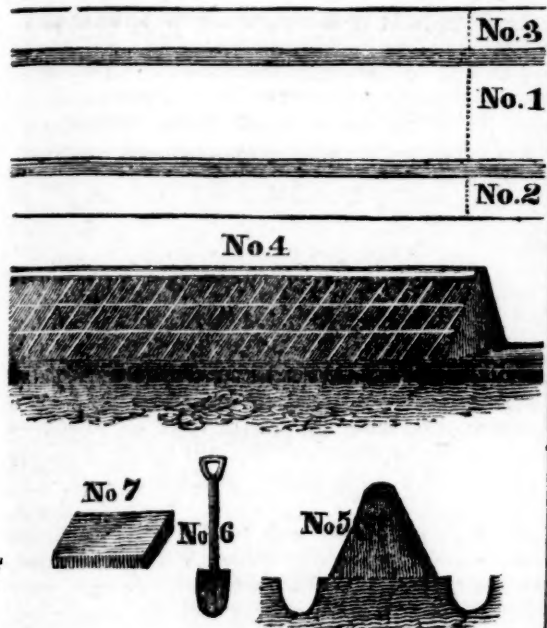
1st. THE STONE FENCE.

This fence is very common in this county, and is made from three to five feet in height. When the fence is three or three and an half feet in height, it has stakes with two rails on top: when from four to five feet in height, it has no rails on top. A man who understands making this kind of fence, will put up a rod for less money, than is the cost of an half rod of post and rail fence. Where the stone is convenient, say not more than an half mile from the spot, where it is proposed to place the fence, a rod of stone fence will cost less, than a rod of post and rail made of good materials. There are many parts of the United States, particularly in Connecticut, where the stone is so convenient, that a stone fence will cost less than an enclosure of any other materials.

2d. THE SOD-BANK FENCE.

This fence, on flat land, well taken with blue grass, English grass, Timothy or coarse grass of the prairies, is the cheapest of all enclosures. I make this assertion, partly from my own observation and partly from the observation of an

intelligent friend of great veracity. This friend assured me, that he had seen many acres enclosed with a fence of this description, on a prairie in Indiana; and that an Irishman, who received fifty cents per day, made three rods per day with ease.



No. 1. The ground on which the sod bank is raised, five feet wide—the sod bank, four feet wide at bottom, allowing an offset on each side of six inches.

No. 2 and 3. The ditches eighteen inches wide on each side, from which the sod and dirt are taken to raise the bank.

No. 4. The front elevation of the bank, shewing the manner of placing the sod.

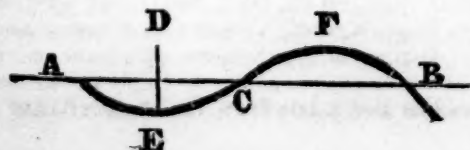
No. 5. The end view of the bank and ditches; the first three feet high and eighteen inches broad at top: the last eighteen inches deep.

No. 6. A common spade, with the corners cut off to be kept sharp to cut the sod.

No. 7. The shape of the sod, which ought to be taken out nearly the whole depth of the spade, in order to preserve the roots entire. The rhombus form of the sod acts as a brace to the bank, and is thought to be preferable to the sod in squares. A hedge of the Carolina rose, the common sweet briar or Eglantine, Althea, &c. would be ornamental and useful on the top of this bank. Should no hedge be planted on the top, it should be rounded and covered with sods or sown with blue grass seed. The spring of the year is the best time to make this kind of enclosure.

3d. THE SERPENTINE BRICK FENCE.

This enclosure is of late invention and known but to few. I have no doubt, however, of its becoming a favorite fence, when fair experiments have been made of its cost and strength.



A, C, B, is a serpentine brick wall four and an half feet in height, and four and an half inches, the width of a single brick only in thickness—A to B, 25 feet: A to C 12½ do: D to E 4¼ do: C to F 6 feet nine inches. 380 bricks will make a rod of this fence 4½ feet in height. As no stone is required for the foundation, it is only necessary to pare off the sod, and to lay the first row of bricks on the surface without mortar: the others will require good mortar in the proportion of one bushel of un-slacked lime, to four bushels of clean sand. The operation of laying the foundation is very simple. Stretch a line from A to B—let the segment A, E, C, be made of plank and applied to the line A, C—mark on the ground the circle on which the bricks are to be placed; and any active hand on the farm may proceed with the work. A brick layer will undertake to put up the wall for \$8 per thousand and find all the materials; but a farmer can afford to do it for \$6, which would be \$2.28 per rod; equal to \$1.14 for a pannel of post and rail fence. The first view of this wall must satisfy you, how much more difficult it would be to upset it, than a straight wall of the same thickness. This fence is the invention of Mr. Harris of Richmond, who enclosed from 8 to 10 acres of land, with a wall of this description about eight years ago. The winds and frost have made no impression on it to this day. Various experiments have been made, with the permission of its owner, to try its strength. Among others, a premium of several gallons of whiskey, was offered to 6 or 8 strong negro men, on condition they would push down the wall. They applied their shoulders to it, but their united efforts could not move a brick of it. Colonel Charles F. Mercer has commenced the enclosing of his grounds, adjoining this village, with a wall of this description. The undertaker was unable to proceed with the work for the want of materials, and left the work several months ago in an unfinished state. The wall at this time, is only four feet high, and, though in the neighbourhood of breachy horses and cows, no attempt has been made to pass the wall.

From the statement I have made, and the description, I have given of these several kinds of fences; I am decidedly of opinion, that in any part of the United States, where stone is convenient, the stone fence is the cheapest enclosure; that on prairies, flat meadow land, or any level land well taken with grass, that the sod-bank fence is the cheapest enclosure; particularly for division fences: that where these two last mentioned fences are not practicable, in a country scarce of timber, that the serpentine brick fence is the cheapest and best enclosure.

Should this communication throw some light on this important subject, I shall be highly gratified.

With sentiments of high respect,

I am your friend, &c.

WM. NOLAND.

TO PRESERVE RIVER BANKS.

Kings-ton, 23rd August, 1821.

MR. SKINNER,—Sir, in your paper of the 20th of March, a request is made for informa-

tion how to keep the banks on large water courses from being washed. I owned a tract of land bordering on the Tennessee river, which commenced making inroads on the bank: there was still a few cane growing along it: I took care for two or three years to protect what was there, in order to increase it, which I did; and it is now growing as vigorously as ever, and I believe has entirely put a stop to the river washing the banks any further. Whether the cane would grow much along the tide-water or not, I do not know.

SAMUEL MARTIN.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

"A rat! a rat! Dead for a ducat."

SHAKESPEARE.

TO MR. REUBEN ROUGHHEAD.

Dear Sir,

Your piece in answer to me, in the American Farmer of the 2d inst. came safe to hand, and I regret to see that your first essay to Kill Rats on the principles laid down by me, met with no better success; but "*nil desperandi*," as Mr. Pedagogue says, which is as much as to say, "try it again; try it again and again until you succeed,"—don't give up, because one trial failed—recollect the spider which taught Bruce a lesson of perseverance, and led to the victory of Bannock Burn. Eleven times it had essayed to ascend the slender thread, and eleven times it had failed—the twelfth it succeeded. Eleven times had Bruce fought and been defeated; but "I will like the spider" said he "*try again*"—he fought and was victorious.

Now, Sir, there is one very important thing I forgot to mention. The material that these caps are made of, whether parchment or paper, must contain some *Pole-mick* writings, it is indispensable; at least it was so in France—that which my uncle saw used there, was obtained from a Convent of *Capuchin* friars, and it was from that circumstance, I am induced to believe that the mode of catching obtained the name, "*A-la-capuchin*" and not from *Cap-push-in*, as my uncle thought. More depends on the writing, than on the crumb of cheese at the bottom of the cap, or the tar or bird lime, or any thing else about it, and it is all important that it should be of that kind called *Rat-icoination*, into which, whatever gets its head, whether rat or man, *Roughhead* or *Roundhead*, I defy him ever to extricate himself.

You must carefully avoid *Cat-egoricks* and *Dog-matics*, for to these, rats have an utter aversion: they may like *Hound's tongue* and *Smilax*, drive them away, but you may rely on it, they will never catch them.

If you use *paper*, none will suit but *fools-cap*.

These are things that I ought to have mentioned before, but in the multiplicity of my cares, I really overlooked them—however, "better late than never;" and I sincerely hope your next effort may be more successful.

Allow me now, my dear Sir, to offer you a few hints. The original writings of the ancient fathers, such as my uncle saw used, have become of too much value of late, in consequence of the Theological controversies which have been going

on among us, to appropriate to the catching of rats; but in proportion to their scarcity and value, various edifying tracts and essays, have become plenty and cheap—try them, my dear Sir; they will cost you nothing; you may find an abundance of them in the companion way of every Steam-boat, and in the bar-room of every tavern in the United States. If they fail, and I don't see why they should, try some of the longest speeches on the Missouri Question, or wait until next session, and try some of those we shall have about the affairs of East Florida, they being of a nature called Rhetorical, or as friend Pedagogue has it, *Rat-orical*, which I think is right, for although it is used now to catch gulls and gudgeons, I have no doubt it was originally designed to catch rats, as the very term imports.

There are other things you might also try, to wit: some of the essays on currency with which our papers are filled; some of those on manufactures; one of the accounts of the *Holkham* (ham by the by is not a bad bait) Sheep shearing, and if none of these will answer try some of my essays, any thing somniferous will I think answer; at least as well as your uncles bushy head, the object of which was to catch them napping.—While I think of it, could not some of our Dandies be turned to good account, employed as Roughhead Rat traps? Some of their curls are admirably adapted to the holding of crumbs, and many of their heads have in them, I dare say, more things than rats and mice.

But try, my good sir, try, there is nothing like trying, and "practice makes perfect." "Try again."

My old aunt Deborah, desires me to say to you, (by the by, but this is a secret, my good aunt Deborah loves a drop now and then), she desires me to say, that *Ratatie*, (which is an excellent thing for the cholic, to which she is very subject); but that *Ratatie* is not the right name for the cordial. She says it should be spelt as it is pronounced, Rat-a-fee—that the practice which formerly existed of giving a bottle of it as a fee for every rat that was taken, dead or alive, (and a good practice she thinks it was too) originated with the *Cepuchins*, the inventors and lovers too of this cordial. They now it seems use *Muss-cat* for the same purpose, which is a corruption, she says, of *Puss-cat*.

She requests me to ask you, to ask your aunt Margery, if you are any way related to the *Loggerheads*, who are first cousins to the *Numb-skulls*, descended from the *Lacklands*, for if you are, she says you are a branch of the "*Simpleton family*", who boast of a relationship with us, but it is no such thing. She has, she says, traced our *Geology*, from William Long-acre, a greater man than Lord Roughhead, or any other Lord that ever wore a head, be his head Rough or smooth; that she is descended in a right line from old *Fee-simple*, a very respectable and worthy old gentleman, who considered all of his connexions and friends on perfect equality—he was a very staunch Republican, and none of his family were ever known to complain of hard times, which is more than the Simpletons could ever boast of, large as the family is.

Your friend and obedient servant,

JEREMIAH SIMPLE.

P. S. You see now the advantage of signing the name in full: it is by this means we have become acquainted with one another.

J. S.

N. B. I almost always write a post script, as I generally think of something I ought to say after I have signed my name.

J. S.

FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS

Mr. Linns—Is it known in the United States, that oil of turpentine is a specific for milk or purple fever, for dysentary, for diseases of the bowels in general? and that the physician who discovered the merits of the medicine is claiming compensation from the British Parliament, and it is thought will get fifty thousand dollars, as it is considered the next discovery after vaccination; that it is much more gentle in its operation when united with castor oil, than castor oil is by itself—that a very few hours is sufficient for recovery, even in the worst cases.

The writer has seen more than one thousand cases, some from the very point of mortification, and never knew one to fail. A dose for adults, one table spoonful oil of turpentine, one table spoonful castor oil; in general one dose is sufficient; if not, repeat the dose.

AN. IRISHMAN.

To our friends in the south, we beg leave to refer the following.

MR. SKINNER,

I am but a young Cotton Planter, with little knowledge of the business; and am desirous of benefitting by the opinions and experience of older planters; I should be obliged if some of your correspondents would furnish the name of any work, if any has been published, on the subject of the cultivation of Cotton: if no such work has been published, perhaps you might prevail upon some of your friends from the south, to furnish instruction through your valuable paper, going into detail, as to the quality of the land best adapted; time and manner of planting, how wide between the beds or ridges, if the furrow is made with hoe helve or Schooter plough, how much seed to the acre, how covered, what time to commence working it, and whether with the hand, hoe, or plough, when, and how, to thin it, how often it should be ploughed and hoed, how many furrows in a row, at what stage must the plant be, when you discontinue working it, how many hands and hoes, will it require to 100 acres, tending no other Crop, is it best to plant it in ridges or in hills? and how far apart. Is a dry or wet season deemed best, why the one preferred? in short, any information on the subject, would be acceptable, and thankfully received, by

AGRICOLA Junr.

Craven County, North Carolina.

MUNIFICENT SUBSCRIPTION.

General Stephen Van Rensselaer has subscribed five hundred dollars annually, for three years to come, to the Albany county Agricul-

tural Society. He has contributed the same amount for the last three years, besides what he has done indirectly, for the promotion of agriculture and manufactures. It will be recollected, that the geological survey of this county, was made under his auspices and at his expense. Nor has the munificence of General Van Rensselaer been confined to his own county. We understand he contributes four hundred dollars per annum to the Rensselaer county society; and his liberality and activity in the cause of agriculture has been instrumental in diffusing a spirit of improvement throughout the state. When the annual charities of this gentleman are told—when his munificent patronage of every institution, which is calculated to benefit and adorn society, is taken into consideration, we trust it will readily be acknowledged by all, that wealth in such hands is a blessing, not only to the possessor but to the whole community.

N. Y. Journal.

Poughkeepsie, August 8.

GREAT DAYS WORK.

Miss Ann Yates of the town of Fishkill spun and reeled one hundred and thirty knots of woolen yarn, in one day from sun to sun.

CURE FOR BURNS AND SCALDS.

Apply a plaster compounded of Burgundy pitch, bees-wax, and a little oil; it will afford almost immediate relief from pain. Let it remain on some days and the cure will be effected. Allow one fourth wax, add sweet oil, lard, or fresh butter to it, to reduce it to a consistency not so soft as to melt with the warmth of the flesh, nor so hard as to irritate.

EDWARD J. COALE,

BOOKSELLER—BALTIMORE,

HAS FOR SALE,

The Agricultural Almanack,

FOR THE YEAR 1822.

Patronized by the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture.

Besides all the necessary calculations and tables in the common Almanack, it contains a number of useful articles relating to agriculture and valuable recipes for domestic uses. It is printed on fine paper and ornamented with a number of neat wood cuts, and interleaved with fine writing paper for memoranda. All for twelve and an half cents.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1821.

Flour from the wagons selling this week at \$6 62½—Whiskey from do 33 to 35 cents—GRAIN—actual sales—White Wheat, \$1 60—Red, \$1 40 and \$1 50—Corn, 65 and 70—Rye, 66—Barley, 60 and 65—Oats, 30 and 35

A few hhds. Kentucky Tobacco, sold the present week at \$5 50—No sales Virginia.

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